

Inside Arab Vision UK

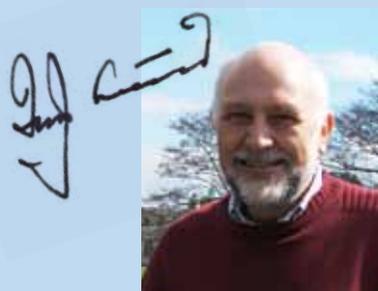
Just recently, Tony Mason & I were invited to present Arab Vision to a church in East Anglia. It was so encouraging to make a presentation in the service and later have many stimulating conversations over tea and cake.

We explained about the goals of Arab Vision, how we support the churches in the Arab World, and reach out to those who know little or nothing of the Good News of Jesus Christ, using modern media like satellite TV and internet.

In March, Tanas Alqassis (AVUK Chairman) and I attended the Arab Vision International board meeting at a beautiful Christian conference centre near Utrecht in the Netherlands. Despite the bitterly cold weather, it was heart-warming to hear stories from our follow-up team of individuals whose lives had been transformed after watching our programmes and being counselled by team members.

Since establishing Arab Vision UK at the end of last year, we have made good progress towards achieving registration with the Charities Commission. We are especially encouraged by a donor who has agreed to pay all our UK administrative expenses for the first two years. This means that 100% of your gifts will go directly towards the cost of our programmes. Or 125%, if you can gift-aid your donation. Please find on page 4 of this newsletter how you can contribute financially.

On behalf of the Arab Vision UK board,
Ian Sutherland



Jesus loves children



thought of a more creative and dynamic approach and decided to build a spaceship for an adventurous journey to the moon. During that journey the pilot takes his assistant on a journey through the bible - telling about God's creation and how our loving and caring God journeyed with all sorts of people throughout bible history. In 365 stories, one for each day of the year. Please pray with us that many children (and their parents) will join us on that journey and find out that our heavenly Father loves them too!

By the way, it was quite a job to build a spaceship....



"Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" - Deuteronomy 6:7. Opening the bible and explaining bible-stories to little children, that is the goal of a new TV series we are producing. In the December newsletter we announced the production of this series in the format of a grandfather reading for his grandchildren, who are sweetly sitting on his lap. Our producer

Exciting puzzle quest through history

Another series we would love to start producing for older children and young teenagers, features an exciting quest to solve a riddle. Our adventure will start out in our studio somewhere in the Middle East. The first part of a riddle will be given along with a clue about where the additional information about a young girl from ancient Roman times can be found. This girl became a Christian after having met with St. Anthony. At each successive stop on our journey, the teams of teens will have opportunities to find additional clues, or to use points they have been given to buy more information that will help them solve the puzzle.



During the quest the children will learn a lot about God's journey with people, and they will understand so much better that God has been acting in real places and times, and still acts in our places and time!

In order to produce this series we are now looking for the funds. It is a 13 episodes TV series of 30 minutes each, and production cost are £3000 per episode. If you are interested to contribute to the production of this exciting series for children, please send an email to ian@arabvision.org, or find our online payment details on our website www.arabvision.org.

Your prayers for this project are highly appreciated as well! Please pray for children and teenagers in the Arab world; at the moment there is still a lack of TV programmes for this age group, and we want to present the Gospel to them in a fun and inviting way that matches their level of thinking and experience.

Parables in the Kabyle language of Algeria

“Education by telling stories was very popular at the time of the Lord Jesus. But even today, stories still play an important role in social communication in North African culture. The culture of the Bible and that of the Kabyles of North Africa is rather similar.” These are the words of Abdelkader, who along with Lahlou produced 26 episodes featuring the teaching of Jesus through his parables.

The stories are put into a contemporary context so that the message comes across more clearly. “As a North African myself, I know this culture and the current political and economic situation pretty well. We use the current problems to make the meaning of the parable quite clear.”

The production was originally to take place in Algeria but because our production team could not get a visa, this option was cancelled. We were so glad that in the last minute we could produce the programmes in southern France where the landscape looks much like that of North Africa. In southern France we were assisted in many practical ways by a team of Arab World Ministries (AWM). This was great!

“We had been hoping for good weather but that was a dream. It was quite cold and the sun hid behind the clouds most of the days. The worst was the wind,” said Abdelkader. “But the cooperation between Arab Vision and Arab World Ministries was heart warming.

We enjoyed it, though it was very hard work because there was less time left because of the visa setbacks. “It was a privilege to work on this production to bring the message of the Gospel closer to my people in our own language”, according to Abdelkader.



Arab Vision produced this series in collaboration with AWM and CNA (Channel North Africa); the programmes need to be edited now, and we need some additional funds to also subtitle the programmes in Arabic.

“I live in a place full of immorality and the people here are against God. Thank you for the TV programmes that help me hold on to my faith.”

Anonymous viewer from Yemen

Would you like to receive regular prayer requests about the Arab world and the work of Arab Vision, please subscribe to our email prayer letter through our website www.arabvision.org or write to us at ian@arabvision.org

Successful media training for Arab youth

During the past months our production team has trained sixty young people in several major cities in one of the Arab countries we work. The media training consisted of scriptwriting, camera work, lighting and sound technology, and editing of TV programmes. Our team has worked together with various development organizations. The goal of this project is to help Arab youth form and express their own ideas and opinions about the future of their country. Since the Arab Spring of 2011 this has been set in motion. More than ever before, people think for themselves instead of blindly following their government, imam, or priest.

The training was rather practical: the goal for these young, ambitious people was to learn how to create an effective short video. The young people worked together in teams so they could help each other and learn from each other.

Training sessions were held on location in the different cities; in addition to that, a media resource centre was set up to support the trainees in the process.

It was a challenge for our production people who gave the training to work simultaneously on six widely separated locations, but it was also encouraging to see with how much commitment these young people worked to achieve great results. They chose topics like education, unemployment, tolerance, and democracy; the project was concluded with a film festival where the best, most creative films were awarded. This festival was a big party for the students,



not the least because famous directors of the film industry were present to encourage them. One of the participants, Salma Ahmed Mahmoud, evaluates: “It was very important for me to take this course and learn how film and other media can help change our society for the better.”

What exactly happens in a church? Invitation to Muslims!

Most Muslims grow up with a distorted view of Christianity, of what Christians believe, and what they do in the church and in their daily lives. Most of them have never set a foot in a church and they therefore have no idea what a church service and the common Christian faith entails. But at the same time, more and more Muslims are becoming interested in Christianity. That is why Arab Vision would like to produce and broadcast a series of programmes about the daily life of a small Arab church and the faith of the Christians in that church. In this way the audience gets a unique inside view into the Christian community. What better way could there be for helping Muslims understand the Christian faith and for inviting them to become part of the body of Christ?

We would like to show viewers how Christians look after each other in spiritual and practical ways and we do this by focusing on the 'daily life' of a small Christian community. Basic topics will be discussed, like what is a sermon, how is the Bible used in a Christian service, what is Eucharist and why do we celebrate it, what is the Lord's Prayer and more, will be discussed.

Would you like to contribute to this project? Check out the 'Your help is needed' section on this page for the cost per episode and how you can donate toward this project.



Picture is unrelated to the project

Your Help Needed

2 LAPTOPS (£1500)

Some of our laptops gave up and must be replaced, but we currently do not have financial space to buy them from our general funds.

SERIES OF TEENAGE PROGRAMMES (£3000 per episode)

This is an exciting series with a lot of competition elements for teenagers. More about this series can be found on page 1.

13/26 PROGRAMMES WHAT HAPPENS IN A CHURCH? (£2150 per episode)

In these programmes, we show (Muslim) viewers how Christians look after each other in a spiritual and practical sense; we zoom in on the daily life of a small Christian community.

FOLLOW UP TEAM (£1200 per month)

Seven employees work together to be able to answer the phone seven days per week, ten hours per day. They are engaged in answering telephone, emails, facebook, etc. They get many questions from our viewers.

PRAYER (TIME)

Your prayers for our work are highly appreciated! If you want to pray regularly for our projects, our producers and our administrative staff, the viewers, the follow up team, then please sign up for our email prayer letter via our website www.arabvision.org or by sending an email to ian@arabvision.org.

If you are interested in receiving full project proposals for the projects in this newsletter, please contact us at ian@arabvision.org Visit our website www.arabvision.org to check out how to make your donation online

“I have accepted Jesus six months ago as my savior after I had been watching your Christian TV programmes. Can I get an Arabic Bible please?”

Jamal, Saudi man in the USA

From our viewers

Sarah's Testimony

With a number of our viewers who contact our follow-up team, the team has frequent conversations for counselling them over a longer period of time. Here is piece from a testimony from a young Arabic woman after having talked with our follow-up workers many times:



“This time I really want to know God... I want to pray from my heart. I can't believe it myself and you wouldn't believe me if I told you that I am changed now. I even can't believe it myself; I have started reading the Bible, just because I really want it. I even don't know if what I do is praying, but I enjoy talking to God. Would you call that prayer? And the weirdest thing of all is that I started

caring for others, feeling responsible for them. Imagine that I am praying for other people! I can hardly believe it myself.”

Sherif from Egypt

“I used to see Jesus Christ in my dreams, and He was telling me that He is peace and Mohammed is just a liar. Before knowing Jesus I always was emotionally tired, but now I live in true peace. I have studied Islam and its history thoroughly and now I am sure that Islam is not from God and the Bible is the word of God. I've read a lot about Jesus and how He is peace and love. I thank God for knowing Him. For He is the truth, the life and the light. The Christian TV programmes have been the main source of the inspiration in my faith, and I am so happy that I now know the truth.”



CONTACT & FINANCE INFO

Arab Vision Trust Fund
is registered as a charity in Cyprus
email: contact@arabvision.org
website: www.arabvision.org

In the United Kingdom, you can send your gift direct to our bank:
Bank: Lloyds TSB Bank Plc
Account: Arab Vision
Sort code: 30-97-24
Account no: 49415760

Alternatively, cheques can be sent to:
The Treasurer
Arab Vision
23 Mill Lane
Saffron Walden
Essex CB10 2AS

In the USA, checks can be sent directly to our American office. Arab Vision Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization.
P.O. Box 110354
Dallas TX 75011

You may also **donate by paying through our website** www.arabvision.org. This is a secure payment facility.

In Canada, Australia and New Zealand, cheques can be sent to Interserve with a cover letter indicating that the money is meant for Arab Vision.

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10 Huntingdale Blvd
Scarborough, ON
M1W 2S5
CANADA

Interserve
PO Box 10244
Auckland 1030
NEW ZEALAND

Interserve
PO Box 231
Bayswater
Victoria 3153
AUSTRALIA

Almost producing...

Who is Jesus?

Jesus Christ is respected among Muslims throughout the world, but few Muslims really understand how Christ plays a central role in Muslim theology. Most are content not to question the teaching of imams and religious scholars, and to accept as a deep mystery that Christ is to be honoured as an important prophet. For the Quran clearly shows some of Christ's characteristics: His virgin birth, His anointing by God and sinless life, even the fact that He will play a role on the last day when the sins of all mankind will be judged.

While for a long time most Muslims set aside questions about the accuracy of teachings in the Quran in blind faith and obedience, today thousands of them challenge traditional Islamic teachings and reject hard-line dictates of fundamentalist leaders. More and more Muslims are interested in learning more about the doctrines in Christianity.

We are preparing the production of 17 short video clips (10 minutes each) about the nature and ministry of Jesus Christ as set forth in both the Quran and the Bible. These clips will be broadcast through satellite TV, and as streaming video on the internet.

Please pray for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the production of this series.

Job Opening PR Manager

We are urgently looking for a new colleague for communication and public relations. If you have a warm heart for the people in the Arab world, if you have some journalistic skills, and preferably some (work) experience in and knowledge of that region, please contact us to get more information about this job-opening.

The PR manager writes newsletters, press releases and articles for Arab Vision, and maintains the content of the websites. He or she is a fluent English speaker, and will be part of the (virtual) international office of Arab Vision. The PR manager also works closely together with our production teams.

Candidates are either based in the Arab world, or willing to travel to the Arab world regularly. Arab Vision does not pay a salary to non-Arabic staff, but a monthly volunteer's stipend. Most of our non-Arabic staff are missionaries, seconded to us by mission agencies such as Interserve and Arab World Ministries.

Please spread the news! For more information, contact us through our website www.arabvision.org or write to contact@arabvision.org.

**ARAB
VISION**

Arab Christians proclaiming the Gospel on TV in the Arab World